IV. *A Letter from Mr.* Ra. Calep, *to Mr.* William Cowper, *F. R. S. concerning a Woman 62 Years of Age (who is ſtill Living) that loſt her Leg and greateſt part of her Thigh by a Gangrene.*

THE Wife of *Tho. Steven* of *Maidenhead* in the County of *Berks*, (aged about 62 Years,) was ſeized with a Fever about the latter end of *November* 1697. Her Phyſician uſed various Remedies to remove her Fever, which in about 14 days terminated in a Tumor and Numneſs in her left Foot, both which did by degrees creep up her Leg, and half way up her Thigh. A Fomentation was order'd by her Phyſician made of *Centaur. Abſinth. Hyperic. &c.* boyl'd in a ſtrong *Lixivium*; and after fomenting, he order'd them to Anoint her Foot and Leg with *Ol. Terebinth.* wherein *Galbanum* was diſſolved. This Method they had uſed daily for a Month before I ſaw her. Coming *Jan.* 3. 1678. from *Henly* upon *Thames* (where I then lived) to ſee ſome Friends and Relations I had at *Maydenhead*, they deſired me to go and ſee this Poor Woman; which I did, and found her in the following Condition, *(viz.)* Her Foot and Leg cold, inſenſible, wither'd, hard as if dry'd in a Chimney, and of a dark Tawney Colour. Her Knee was ſwell'd, and had ſeveral large black Spots upon it, which pitted when preſt with my Finger. There was ſeveral Diſcolourations in the Skin, half way up her Thigh. She complained of great Pains, eſpecially at Nights, in her Knee and Thigh, yet cou'd not feel me when I touched thoſe Parts. Her Fever was now encreaſed again, and ſhe was delirious ſometimes. She begg'd heartily of me for help; but alaſs! what cou'd I propoſe

to

to relieve her? Nothing but the taking off her Thigh, which ſhe wou'd not conſent to. I was not ſorry for her not admitting of that Operation, becauſe I could not expect any Succeſs in the performing it, by reaſon of her Age, Weakneſs, *&c.* So I took leave of her, ſuppoſing I ſhou'd never ſee her more. I adviſed her Friends to continue the uſe of the Fomentation, which they did almoſt Night and Day. About a Month after, I coming to *Maidenhead*, was ſurprized to find this poor Woman alive. There was now a diſcharge of a Black Fætid Matter, at a ſmall Orifice about the middle of the Inſide of her Thigh, which Orifice I enlarged to make a better diſcharge for the Matter. I likewiſe cut into a Tumour that appeared upon her Knee, but found nothing in it but Wind. I then took my leave of her, (as before) adviſing to continue fomenting daily. About a Month or 5 Weeks afterwards, I came to *Maidenhead* again, and found her alive, and to my admiration ſaw that, which thro' the whole courſe of my Life I may never ſee again, (*viz.*) how Nature had made a perfect Separation of the mortify'd Fleſh from the ſound, quite round the Thigh, the Bone of the Thigh lying wholly bare above the breadth of 4 Fingers, and deprived of its *Perioſteum.* The Fleſh above was freſh and florid, and had good white Matter upon it. I now perſwaded her to let me take off her Thigh, which I did about 2 Fingers breadth in the ſound Fleſh, (becauſe the Fleſh run tapering down to the Bone,) by which I made the Stump pretty even. The Bleeding was little, by reaſon that the Veins and Arteries (which were eaten aſunder by the mortifying Matter) Nature had cloſed again. I Dreſt the Stump with *Pul. Reſtring.* mixt with *Album. Ovor.* ſpread upon Pledgets, and dipt in *Ol. Terebinth.* hot. The next Dreſſings I uſed Digeſtives, and performed the reſt of the Cure according to the Rules of our Art. The Woman is alive to this Day, and now liveth in *Maidenhead* over againſt the *Bear Inn.*

I wou'd have preſerved this Leg to have diſſected it, but the Friends of the Woman deceived me. They promiſed me to keep it for me till the next day, which I relying upon, left it with them. So they took that opportunity to Bury it, where I never cou'd find it. I ſhall forbear ſending you my poor Reflection on this caſe, for fear I ſhou'd not judge aright. But ſhall leave it to you, and others, who are more Competent Judges than

Auguſt 23. 1707. Yours, *&c.*

Ra. Caleb.

" About the beginning of *October* laſt I happened to " be at *Maydenhead*, where I ſaw the Woman whoſe " Caſe is here related; ſhe appeared to be very decrepid, " and would have ſhewn me the Stump of her Thigh " bare, but the coldneſs of the Weather, ſhe ſaid, would " make it uneaſie to her. I felt it through her Cloaths, " and the end of the Stump ſeem'd to be not above four " or five Inches below the Trunk of her Body.

" Since I have ſo frequently found the large Trunks " of the Arteries of the Thighs and Legs of Aged Peo- " ple petrified, as I have mention'd in the *Tranſactions*, " *Numb.* 280. and moſt commonly in thoſe who have had " Gangreens in the Legs, *&c.* I am apt to ſuſpect the like " happen'd in the Crural Artery of this Woman; which, " like a Legature, did at length put a total ſtop to the " Influent Blood below that Stricture.

Novemb. 27. 1707. *William Cowper.*